

Westfield Police Department

Neighborhood Speed Partnership

The Problem

- Neighborhood Associations have identified speeding vehicles as a primary problem
- Residents are typically primary contributors to the problem
- Reactive police approach does not provide longer term solutions

A Solution

- The Westfield Police Department will administer a three part program to neighborhoods whose neighborhood or homeowners association request that the program be conducted
- The association will partner with the Police Department in distributing information and will share in some costs

The Program

- This program has three parts and has been used successfully by other Hamilton County police agencies
- There are costs associated with conducting the program for which the police department is not budgeted and for which we will seek association assistance

The Program

- This program consists of three parts:
 - Information
 - Awareness
 - Enforcement

Information

- The first phase of the program notifies residents and explains what will be happening
- The primary means of notification is a letter from the Police Department which says there is a speed problem and tells what will happen in the next two phases

Information

- Many associations have other communications methods which would also be utilized
 - Newsletters
 - E-mail
 - Signs, etc.
- We will ask the association to contribute funds for printing and postage

Awareness



Awareness

- The second phase will make residents and other neighborhood traffic aware of their speeds
- In this phase we will place the police department's radar trailer on the primary street or most problematic street to make neighbors and motorists aware of vehicle speeds

Awareness

- The speed trailer will be in place for a minimum of two days and a maximum of five days before the next phase begins
- In larger communities, it may be relocated to cover major ingress/ egress points

Enforcement



Enforcement

- In the third phase Westfield Police Department officers will aggressively enforce the posted speed limits
- We will use a virtual "Zero Tolerance" approach and will ticket violators in excess of 5 mph over the posted limit

Enforcement

- Virtual Zero Tolerance allows for officers to use statutory discretion for very particular cases- for example, rushing someone to the hospital
- The 5 mph allowance is dictated by the prosecutor's office and the courts- we cannot cite cars that are not at least "5 over"

Enforcement

- We have two approaches to the enforcement aspect which will be worked out with the association
 - Approach 1- an on-duty unit will be assigned to targeted traffic enforcement twice per day for two hours per instance (4 hours total)
 - Since the unit is on-duty, any call for service will pull him or her away

Enforcement

- Approach 2- the association will pay for an off-duty officer for dedicated enforcement
- In this scenario, the officer will remain for whatever time parameters have been negotiated
- The officer will do nothing but targeted enforcement in that particular neighborhood
- The only thing that would pull the officer away is an emergency call that is close by

Follow Up

- At the conclusion of the enforcement phase we will mail or have the association distribute a postcard to see if residents believe the program was effective and to see how they feel the police department handled things
- Again, we will ask the association to assist financially in this phase